

The Labour Organiser

No. 188

FEBRUARY, 1937

Price 4d.

MEMBERSHIP

**The Big Figure Parties respond
to an L.O. invitation to tell
how they do it.**

*See also
last month*

NEWPORT (MON.)

A Local Party with a Block Vote

What we like about Newport is its ambition. To-day Newport is the premier Party in Wales. It comes fifth on the list of highest memberships in Great Britain. And if we judge membership by percentages, Newport comes second in a membership to vote comparison. Yet they are out for first place this year and a 4,000 membership.

Mr. R. H. Leys, Secretary and Agent, who contributes the following, is to be congratulated on the brilliant fight from dependence to independence and prominence.

The Newport Labour Party had a fairly good membership when the contribution was a shilling per annum, but during that period the Party had been subsidised by Trade Union Parliamentary candidates.

In 1931 we had to endeavour to make the Party self-supporting, and our supporters were told that if Socialism were worth having it was worth paying for, and that the organisation that was necessary could not be built up on a farthing per week.

In 1931 the income of the Party from membership amounted to £92. In 1932, owing to the establishment

of the penny per week contribution the income on membership rose to £424 12s. 1od. I might add that during that year The Newport Labour Hall Ltd. paid to the Party one shilling per member for their club members. In 1933, owing to the effects of the industrial depression this payment ceased and the membership fees of the Party dropped that year to £372 3s. 1od.

In 1934 we decided to organise a mass membership campaign and a special Labour and Socialist week was held. The largest vacant shop in the centre of the town was rented and from that shop our canvassers went out. Envelopes were addressed to known sympathisers and special membership forms were delivered by hand. These were called for and returned to the central campaign centre.

A special self-denial effort amongst the members was made, and a great deal of the cost of the week was met out of this effort. During that week 17,000 signatures were obtained in the shop, and from door to door, against the Means Test. This work was done by the Newport Unemployed Association.

At the close of the campaign we had a greatly increased membership,

amounting to one in every six of those who had voted for the Labour candidate in 1931. Our income rose to £415 14s. 9d.

In 1935 a three months' campaign was arranged—a week in each Ward. Much credit must be given to our women members for the part they played in this effort. We covered the whole of the borough. Mr. Peter Freeman, our Parliamentary candidate, was with us on each day and got direct contact with the electorate, which was very beneficial to us during the following election when, although not successful, polled the highest vote recorded for Labour in the borough.

Again our membership showed an increase, nearly reaching the 3,400 mark, and our fees rose to £432 10s. 1d. In 1936, owing to the aftermath of the General Election and small local differences, our membership fell slightly, but despite this the membership fees increased to a record figure of £455 7s. 5d.

Readers will ask how this is maintained. In reply, I will endeavour to outline our method. At present we have 18 collectors, these are paid 20 per cent. of their collections plus six-pence bonus for each new member obtained by their own efforts; the

latter is paid after the member has paid twelve weeks' contributions, and the commission is paid at the end of each quarter.

Our method is nearly watertight. Our actual leakage last year out of the total mentioned above was only fifteen shillings—180 out of 109,417 stamps issued.

Payments are made into the central office every Monday, the office remaining open till 7 o'clock for this purpose. We have our own stamps and collectors' cards printed to cover a period of four years. The total cost of account books, collectors' cards and stamps does not amount to more than one per cent. of our collections. The colour of the stamps is changed each year.

When a new member is made a letter of welcome is sent from the Parliamentary candidate; when a member lapses a lapsed member circular is sent out. Bi-monthly the candidate sends out to members a bulletin. It is possible for us to circularise our members any week-end. Every Ward meeting that is held, each member receives from the collector a notice of same.

The secret of the success of a maintained membership is regularity of collections. Contact is kept by meetings, social events, adult outings, children's outings. We have been proud of our women membership being the highest in the country for 1934-35. We are now tackling the men and we shall not be satisfied until they number the same as the women.

The small membership Parties in the Movement are always bewailing the matter of the Trade Union block vote. This could be overcome if all the Parties had as their objective one out of every six voters as members; this alone would give Head Office an added income of £16,000, which would greatly help to increase our efforts in the country.

Our delegate, holding up a card with 4 on it at the annual conference last year, was accused of having a block vote!

Five hundred Divisional Parties could, if less talking was done and more work put in, wield 2,000,000 votes at conference. What about it, Divisional Secretaries? Form your own Council of Action, present your own United Front to the voters. The harvest is waiting for you. Get on with the job.

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**South Paddington Labour Party
85 Clarendon St., London, W.2**

ALTERATION OF ADDRESS.

Will readers please note that owing to the sale of the premises our publishing office at 107 Dale End, Birmingham, will be closed in a few days. All communications for the "Labour Organiser" should be addressed to the Editor, Mr. H. Drinkwater, Fernhill Heath, near Worcester. Our new office address will be announced in due course.

THE STORY RUNS ON—

NUNEATON

2,300 Members in 12 Months

Barefoot, of Woolwich, the membership magician, said last month: "Membership brings membership." So it does, and in unexpected ways.

Here in Nuneaton membership—the solid, enduring and good-paying sort—never rose above the few hundreds, till one skilled in membership methods, and trained in a big membership Party, took a hand.

Mr. V. Titherington, the present agent, after only a year of service, plus a month or two, has put Nuneaton right in the forefront of Parties. He learnt the trick, we suppose, at Nelson and Colne, along with our old colleague, Mr. W. J. Troup. So then big membership not only gathers to itself at home; it also exports.

But please read this homely response to our request for details:—

In this Division we have increased the individual membership from 827 to 3,109 during 1936, but if readers think that we have a magic formula, they are doomed to disappointment.

The only way is to get the Ward Committees to put in some real hard work, as members are there waiting to be made.

First of all we get a marked up register of electors, or if that is not available a number of lists of names of people who are known, or thought to be, Labour supporters. To each of these we send a circular letter as per the enclosed sample.

After a couple of days the canvassers call to see the people who have had the circular, and we find that about 70 per cent. of the letters, when followed up in this way by a personal call, result in new members.

The greatest difficulty is not to GET members but to KEEP them, and it is on this point that we have to exercise most care. We find that the difficulty is met in two distinct ways, and we use both of them.

If you do not want to pay a small commission for collection, but ask for all voluntary collectors, see to it that no one collector has more than 25

members to look after, so that the work can be done without becoming a burden.

Should you overload a collector, it is only a matter of time, and you will find the enthusiasm of the worker waning, and the members neglected.

If, however, you are not a purist, and you want results, it is possible to get some of the young people from good Socialist homes who are willing to do this work for a small commission, and we find that they stand up to the work very well, because when they lose any members it reduces their commission.

They report the loss of members and ask the Secretary to get them a few more to keep the book up to scratch, with the result that the membership scheme is always to the fore.

One last word, make the members feel that you are trying to help them.

Let them feel that if they have any trouble, they can come to the Labour Party Office and get some good advice, and sympathy in their trouble.

If you do that, and you are prepared to do the work, there is no reason why membership campaigns throughout the country should not result in a million this year.

NUNEATON DIVISIONAL LABOUR PARTY.

(St. Mary's Ward)

Dear Friend,

You will doubtless be aware that we have been engaged of recent weeks in the rebuilding of the Labour Party in this area, so that it might be a real force in the civic life of the town.

There are many things needing attention, but which are not likely to be done except by having Labour members on the public authorities who know what we want, and are prepared to try and get it.

The only way in which we can do this is to be ORGANISED, just as we have Trade Unions for industrial protection, and the Co-operative Movement for trading protection.

Our political unity is inside the Labour Party, and membership costs you ONE PENNY PER WEEK, which will be collected by Party workers at your convenience.

If the workers are to secure justice, they must have their own representatives to get it for them, but this costs money, and we are asking YOU not for the handsome donations which wealthy people give to their political Parties to keep YOU down, but for ONE PENNY per WEEK as the price of YOUR EMANCIPATION.

We have reason to believe that YOU are interested in the Labour Party, so

we take the liberty of sending this circular, in the hope that you will give it your earnest consideration.

Within a day or two some member of the Party will call to see you, and we trust that you will come in and join us in the glorious task of making this country "A land fit for heroes to live in."

Yours sincerely,

(Coun.) H. DEEMING, Secretary.
W. V. TITHERINGTON, Agent.
R. FLETCHER, M.P.

Office: Abbey Chambers,
Abbey Street, Nuneaton.

GREENWICH doesn't lose time

It Gets 'Em on the Spot !

Greenwich has a handsome and long membership record, as readers of the "L.O." well know. It also has an admirable team of collectors.

Mr. Berriff, the Secretary and Agent, emphasises below that canvassing must be kept up if membership is to do likewise. We agree.

But note the advice to get members "on the spot," without the usual leaving of forms. Again we agree, but this calls for more expert canvassing, or at any rate, push and pluck on the part of the canvasser. But as Mr. Berriff shows, it pays.

Greenwich has well over 3,000 members.

A big Party with solid membership cannot be built in a year, but it can easily collapse in that time unless carefully administered.

There is only one really effective way to secure members—the personal approach by doorstep canvassing. No other way so amply repays time and energy expended. Even when a large membership is attained, the regular yearly doorstep canvass campaign is essential to hold one's ground.

The membership campaign leaflet must be brief and "snappy," so that it may be read whilst the canvasser is at the door. Get your member there and then, on the spot, whenever possible. The mere leaving of forms and calling back again in a few days' time bears much less fruit.

To try to run street meetings in conjunction with a membership can-

vass is not only impracticable but detrimental to membership getting.

Before embarking on the campaign the Party should secure definite promises from active members to act as collectors in the districts where the membership is sought. Immediately the membership is secured the collectors' books should be written up, and upon the first visit of the collector a letter of welcome into membership should be delivered.

Some centralisation of finance is essential to the maintenance of a big Party, in order that the weaker districts are not left to struggle against heavy odds, whilst for the stronger districts all is smooth going.

The Divisional Party should guarantee to the Wards and Sections the elementary necessities of life, covering the cost of meeting rooms, stationery and circularisation facilities.

The fruits of the collectors' labours should come directly into the Divisional Party, the allocations therefrom to the funds of the subsidiary bodies being made periodically, on a fixed ratio.

APPRECIATION.

A.W.Z. "It would seem fitting to mention how useful and instructive I have found the 'Labour Organiser.' "

A.E.E. "We regard the 'L.O.' as an excellent book."

THE STORY RUNS ON—

DOWN LIMEHOUSE WAY

Team Work Tells

Major Attlee sits for Limehouse. And is it not appropriate that this Party should lead in membership, so much so as to be the winner of the Labour Party's Membership Trophy—an honour not lightly earned.

But the story of how the 3,000 odd membership has been built is characteristic. Just steady going—canvassing 6.30 to 8.30. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. C. Roeder, emphasises in the following invited notes that team work and the team spirit has been at work. And that this has accomplished so much in the leader's own division is a cheering thought and happy omen for others.

The success of the Limehouse Labour Party in building up its huge membership is in the main due to the team spirit amongst officials and rank and file members.

A small band of workers are asked for from each Ward in the Division to work with a group leader. Canvassing each house in each area, two hours nightly from 6.30 till 8.30 we have found to be the best time.

Then the distribution of membership forms and an explanation to each tenant of the policy of the Labour

Party, also dealing with what Labour has done.

The above method, of course, means hard work on the doorstep, but it has certainly proved worth while in the East End of London. It is very easy for a Secretary to organise a membership campaign, but without the team spirit and co-operation of the rank and file no useful purpose can be served.

The conduct of our Councillors on the local Council helps to keep the members interested, and good discussion at our Ward meeting we have found assists us to keep the members we have made during the year.

I sincerely hope my explanation is such that all Divisional Parties may do likewise. Experience has proved that this method, if adopted, will ensure success.

This year Limehouse Divisional Party were successful in winning the London Labour Party membership trophy.

Team spirit must at all times be there in our Movement, and Labour will, if that team spirit is there, raise itself to the top of the polls at all times.

ILFORD GETS 2,911

Out of Owner-Occupiers

Essex next. How those house-proud people, the "owner occupiers," martyred and mortgaged in the newest ramp of capitalism, worry the average Party. They prove a stone wall to membership almost as blank as the number of bricks each actually owns.

Yet, here we are, three thousand of them nearly, and all safely tucked in a good Labour Party—an insurance they will need all too soon and thoroughly admirable. For it is the Labour Party which will eventually have to emancipate the "owner occupier." The wiser ones know it now—as at Ilford. The rest all over the country must come in too.

Ilford is an encouragement. It is an

example also for lots of Parties fearing these new estates.

Our thanks to Mr. R. T. Holness, the Secretary and Agent, for the following useful response to our request to tell us "how it's done."

I have been asked to write a few lines upon the methods adopted in Ilford to build up and maintain the individual membership of the Party.

The Division is almost entirely residential and is composed in large part of "owner occupiers." The membership of the Party at the end of 1936 was 2,911 and it will be readily understood that the maintenance of this membership consequent upon removals

and the usual amount of lapses from various causes entails constant effort.

The methods are as follow:—

Consistent canvassing of those who are recorded as supporters in election canvass. They are first circularised and told that within a day or so a member will call upon them with a view to enrolling them as members of the Party.

We endeavour to maintain a canvassing band in each Ward and the work is carried on regularly throughout the year.

In addition the Executive Committee of the Party have appointed a Membership Sub-Committee, which Sub-Committee from time to time visits the

Wards seeking to encourage and inspire them to further effort in the enrolment of members.

Particular attention is paid to Wards where the organisation is lagging or weak, and we have found this method very effective.

Where the necessary information as to the sympathies of the electors is not available we adopt the door-to-door system of canvassing and have found same produce good results.

Our experience convinces us that the systematic work conducted on the lines indicated is bound to produce results and we are hoping that 1937 will see a large addition to our ranks.

EAST HAM NORTH

The Little Snags and How to Deal with Them

Mr. W. Stewart Rainbird, an old Midland agent, who has systematised East Ham North, writes so interestingly and in detail, of how it's done down there, that our introduction needs be brevity itself. Thanks, thanks, old friend—and congratulations.

In the ups and downs of politics, it is no mean feat to collect £1,848 in pennies from individual members in six years. The real test of membership is not only in the number of members made and cards issued, but in the stability and height of the sum collected annually. East Ham North Division has collected, mainly in weekly contributions, the following gross sums:—1931, £237; 1932, £291; 1933, £336; 1934, £299; 1935, £297; 1936, £348. So much for *bona fides*.

The collectors are voluntary workers but Wards are permitted, if they so desire, to pay a commission of one penny in the shilling to collectors. The commission must be paid by the Ward Association out of the 25 per cent. of retained contributions. A collector is not obliged to accept commission. He may do one of two alternatives, elect to allow his commission to remain as Ward funds, or have it earmarked for the annual children's treat. This expedient meets the objector to rewards for services, without giving offence to the worker who is not averse to recompense. Originally,

this commission was known as boot-money, because to out-of-work collectors, shoe leather was indeed a valuable commodity.

The money collected is paid in once a month to the Treasurer at the Ward Committee meeting, or through a Polling District Steward to the Ward Committee. The totals for each polling district are recorded in minutes, and defaulting collectors noted. The Ward Committee always includes collectors, but their attendance is not obligatory as in the case of elected members. The collections are reported to the Ward Association as a matter of routine.

Quarterly, or half-yearly, the collecting books are called in and the total collected from each member is recorded in the Ward membership register. It is simple to compare the quarterly yield in each polling district with its predecessors, especially with the three or five years' average for the area.

Each Ward Treasurer pays in to the Party Treasurer, on a printed form, and keeps a duplicate, which must be produced for audit by both Treasurers.

The Party Treasurer reports (with his other income) details of membership income from each Ward at the monthly Party E.C.; indeed, he presents a signed financial statement, always in the same form, of all Party income and expenditure. Again this report is minuted, and comparison is

made at the centre of the ups and downs of Ward income.

So, as it were, the key people are always aware of improvements, or setbacks. All this is much simpler in practise than it sounds.

East Ham North is a constituency in a divided borough. It is a dormitory; there are no large halls, hence no mass-suggestion; no works meetings. Letter-box and doorstep confront our workers. Great determination is required to keep membership alive in such circumstances, and to keep the workers from becoming stale. We lose through removals and lapses about 400 members yearly, out of a 2,600 membership.

(1) The attrition must be checked by an annual Ward membership campaign, which may cover a single P.D. in a Ward, or whole Wards. All Wards commence simultaneously, and the campaign is best short and sharp. Ten days is long enough. The broad outline of campaign is decided at the centre.

(2) Some collectors have been trained to note removals and to visit incoming tenants. This is very effective.

(3) Membership campaigns are made on supporters marked "For" in the

preceding year's Municipal (or Parliamentary) campaign.

(4) A Ward membership trophy (Chairman's disc and mallet), which bears the names of the winning Ward Association, Chairman and Secretary on a silver plate for every year it is held. Our trophy has now 13 silver plates on it. The winner is determined by deducting at the year end the lapses (*ignoring removals*) from the membership cards issued. A Ward holds the trophy only so long as its record is unbeaten in the succeeding year.

(5) Lapses are reported to Ward Committees, for visitation, written appeal, or writing-off.

(6) Some wards have a form-letter which is sent to new members introducing them to Ward privileges and meetings, and extending a warm welcome.

By the way, the income from affiliation fees averages £14.

If there are still doubting Thomases who may think that a penny-weekly contribution dries up the fountain, may I add that our members contribute annually about £100 profit in draws and in addition subscribe to outings and Christmas children's parties, to a total of 2,000 in each case.

ST. ALBANS

Cathedral City and All That

Now for a type of county constituency to be found by the many—Cathedral city, ancestral home and village, and just a bright speck here and there. Such problems call for grit and our comrades have steadily shown that they have got it!

Note there is no agent. The methods adopted have been just hard plodding. But they are varied and consistent, as this request jotting (by the Hon. Secretary, Herbert Burrell) truly shows:

The St. Albans Division extends from Brunswick Park, London, N.11, in the south to Welwyn Garden City in the north, some 20 miles away. Between those two points are urban areas such as Barnet, the Cathedral City of St. Albans, Hatfield—home of the Salisburys—and delightful rural districts.

Our job is to organise that mixture on a voluntary basis, and in the past few years I think we can claim to have done that with some degree of success.

Our methods can only be sketched in a short article. The well established Parties, while keeping in close contact with the centre, are left largely to their own devices. Regular contact is maintained with all sections by monthly Executive meetings. Quarterly conferences are held in each of the centres in turn and regular bulletins are issued giving items of importance. A sub-committee is available for matters of urgency.

Subscriptions are collected throughout the Division on a voluntary basis.

Briefly we plan our year as follows: The winter months are devoted to indoor work—public meetings, socials, discussion groups, etc. All play their

part in keeping workers together, ready for Urban, Rural District and County Elections in the spring and Borough Elections in November.

The spring and summer months we give over to open air meetings in the villages, followed up a day or so later with a door-to-door canvass for members. At the same time our larger Parties carry on a similar campaign adapted to their own conditions.

Our difficulty in the rural areas is that by this means we get a membership together and then have to find the officers. But we have noted "possibles" and again turn our attentions to these. Experience shows that this phase is the most difficult and calls for tact and patience. Similarly the larger Parties have a time lag in finding collectors for fresh areas.

Publicity is an all-important feature. We find that local papers are usually glad of local news and we endeavour

to provide them with it. The candidate in any Division should be given as much "Press" as opportunity presents.

For two years prior to the 1935 election we distributed 10,000 "Victory Leaflets" per month. Our candidate, Hugh Franklin, and other speakers followed up each issue and addressed hundreds of village and town meetings, also canvassing with us in nearly every village and town in the Division. Thus the personal contact was made months before the election and our reward was a record Labour vote for the Division and an individual membership for 1935 of 1,796. Trade Union affiliations are also growing and we seek opportunities to visit their branch meetings.

Like others, we meet setbacks and disappointments, but we go forward to 1937 not merely hoping, but definitely organising, to convert Tory St. Albans to Socialism.

DEPTFORD'S Foundation of Enduring Strength : 3,000 Members, 100 Collectors 100% Labour Representation

It would take far, far more space than we can spare if we followed our desires and reproduced for the instruction of readers only a few of the several helps and aids to membership getting and keeping which accompany Mr. W. J. Stimpson's kind response to our enquiry about Deptford.

No Party scores a membership over 3,000 without providing lessons for others. Deptford looks after its collectors; it has 100 of them, and there is a Collectors' Re-union every year—bigger than some Parties' annual all-in "do"!

Mr. Stimpson sends us examples of communications to supporters, to new members, to new electors, to collectors, and to all members, each of which has a pull; also examples of machine methods which show a light on the intensive organisation which Deptford's magnificent membership provides. We reproduce one example elsewhere in this issue. Others, we hope, may appear in future issues.

Individual membership is to a Party as the rock to a lighthouse—a foundation of enduring strength. Politically,

it is an inspiration; financially a valuable asset, and socially it provides a happy interlude in the life of the Party and of the members.

Building up a membership is an adventure, a journey full of zestful vagaries. Deptford has had no particular method other than is common to all Parties, the taking advantage of favourable political factors and election periods, and the following-up of voting records. The foundation of success in big membership parties is the collector. They do a magnificent job. A good collector is the real builder, and Deptford owes its main success as a big membership Party to that fact. A good collector is an inspiration, an antidote to the complainer.

Once having the nucleus of membership, that membership should act as a snowball in building up if the members are looked after properly and made to feel that the Party appreciates their membership as well as their financial contribution. This means making contact from the centre as well as from the Ward organisation. The central Party must be a binding factor in making the members feel

proud of being a member of that particular Party as well as being members of the larger Movement.

Difficulties, of course, arise in a big membership, due to the "frailty of human nature." But whatever these difficulties or minor disagreements may be, members generally respond to the deeper and truer call of the Movement.

Deptford has twelve Wards and is covered by 100 collectors who pay their collections in to the Ward Secretary, who transmits to the Office, and each collector receives an acknowledgement from the Secretary.

Collectors' meetings are held at intervals so that their point of view may be heard and any adjustments made in their respective Wards. We endeavour to "hold" our membership by plenty of social functions at which Party officers and Councillors attend. As a valuable psychological factor, we continually impress "pride in our own Borough." The Office sends, at intervals, certain communications to the members (as enclosures). Finally, the great factor in Deptford's success is its magnificent civic record . . . a 100 per cent. representation . . . Parliamentary; London County Council and the Borough Council . . . fine service rendered by fine men and women has been appreciated and membership recruiting made easier.

POT POURRI

The annual dinner of the London and Near Counties District of the National Union of Labour Organisers and Election Agents takes place on Saturday, February 13th. We understand that between ninety and a hundred will sit down to dinner. The special guests are Dr. Hugh Dalton, M.P., Mr. George Hicks, M.P., Mr. S. F. Perry and Mr. H. Drinkwater.

The Labour Party has issued a further useful circular containing hints on the County Council, District and Urban Council Elections. The circular is accompanied by a number of suggested paragraphs that might be helpful in the compilation of election literature. Secretaries and key workers not in possession of a copy of this circular should enquire immediately of other officers or of the Head Office of the Party so that the information given can be immediately available.

The "South Leeds Worker," which

has a guaranteed circulation of 6,000 copies per month, again shows a handsome profit for 1936. From the balance sheet to hand we notice that the income from advertisers was £112, and after paying all expenses there was a profit balance of £33 odd. Yet some otherwise prosperous and live Parties hesitate about the issue of a local news sheet.

The Durham Federation of Divisional Labour Parties is again to the fore in issuing help for its constituent and local organisations in readiness for the Spring elections. An admirable booklet of 50 pages has been issued, and the volume of aid therein rendered is surprising. There are speakers' lists, eleven draft leaflets full of facts and figures, and also speakers' notes. London must look to its laurels. Certainly Durham is not behind. Congratulations to our colleague, Mr. J. W. Foster, who is the Hon. Secretary to the Federation.

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[Watching and working the register brings members. Here's
an example of how it's done.—Ed. "L.O."]



Ald. W. H. GREEN,
J.P., L.C.C.

Deptford Labour Party

435 New Cross Road,
S.E.14.

Dear Friend,

I am pleased to be able to inform you that your name appears on the new Register of Electors for the Borough of Deptford, and that, therefore, as from October 15th, 1935, you will be entitled to exercise your vote in parliamentary or municipal elections within the Borough.

May I, as the Parliamentary Candidate and Leader of the Council, extend to you a welcome upon your entering into citizenship rights within our Borough, and to express the hope that in your residence here you will find much that is pleasant and satisfactory to you, both socially and in the civic amenities you will enjoy as a citizen.

I extend that welcome irrespective of Party consideration, but as it may be probable that your sympathies and convictions are with the Labour Party, you might desire to take advantage of the form attached hereto. In that event I should be doubly glad to welcome you . . . as a Citizen of the Borough of Deptford, and as a Member of the Deptford Labour Party, associations of pride and progress.

Yours very sincerely,

W. H. GREEN.

A membership application form is
attached to this circular.—Ed. "L.O."



QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE

RELIEF ON LOAN

Question. Are persons who have received relief on loan disqualified from being County, Rural or Parish Councillors?

Answer. Under the present law a person is disqualified who has received relief within 12 months before the day of election, and this disqualification extends to every kind of Local Government body. Relief on loan is no different in this respect to ordinary relief, but an unrepaid loan does not continue to disqualify. The matter remains a question of contract or interest, however, and when any questions affecting the same come before the Council, the interest must be disclosed and the person concerned must not vote, just as in the case of any other business transaction with the Council.

POLLING BOOTHS IN PRIVATE HOUSES

Question. It appears to have been the practice at _____ to use rooms in private dwelling houses for the purpose of polling stations, at both General and County Council Elections.

It would appear from 30 and 31 Vict. c. 102, s. 37, that by a stretch of imagination the Returning Officer may be correct, but I am sure you will agree that it is most undesirable, especially when the room hired is the property of one of the C.C. candidates, although the property is let to a tenant and the actual hiring is from the tenant and not from the landlord.

Now can you advise me of any decision where I can object to this kind of thing?

Answer. It seems to us that the Returning Officer in this case is acting in an unusual manner, if it is a fact, as we believe it is, that public school-rooms are available in place of private houses.

30 and 31 Victoria, c. 102, Section 37, applies only to Parliamentary elections, as will be seen by a reference to Section 61 of this Act. For the rules governing the class of election in question (an Urban District Council) we must turn to the Statutory Rules and Orders prescribed by the Local Government Act, 1933.

These rules are S.R. & O., 1934, No. 545. The relevant instructions are to be found in the second schedule, part III., Rules IV., VII. and VIII. It is expressly laid down that the Returning Officer may use, free of charge, for the purpose of taking the poll or of counting the votes, a room in a school in receipt of a grant, or in respect of which a grant is made out of monies provided from Parliament from or by the Board of Education, and (or) a room, the expense of maintaining which is payable out of any rate.

Rule VII. lays upon the Returning Officer the obligation of providing sufficient polling stations for the electors. He is nowhere specifically instructed as to exclusive use of schools, or that he must avail himself of them at all, but the intention of the rules appears to us to be clear. The Returning Officer is first told what rooms he may have without cost, and he is afterwards told that he must provide a "sufficient number." We think it is the duty of the Returning Officer in every case to first utilise such school-rooms as may be available, and only resort to the use of private premises if the former prove insufficient.

We are afraid our friend has no direct remedy in this matter. The question may be raised upon the Council, where it can be shown that public money is being wasted. This may have some effect. A rather spiteful remedy would be to draw the attention of the assessment authorities to

the matter and show that certain premises were being regularly used other than as dwelling houses. The assessment should be increased by the amount of the additional rent earned. We do not advise this, and indeed there may be a boomerang in the procedure, for who wants election committee rooms hired by candidates additionally rated, as in strict law they should be?

A COUNCILLOR AND AN ASSUMED NAME

Question. Can you tell me what happens if a candidate gets elected in a wrong name, as happened recently with a Tory candidate here?

Answer. From an amplification of the above question we gather that the "wrong" name amounts to the dropping of a prefix which ordinarily has been a part of the candidate's surname.

In the position here stated, we do not think there is anything to be done about the matter. Under English law a man may be known by what surname he chooses, and having been declared elected in an assumed name, there would appear to be no power to deprive this person of office on the ground of misdescription. It would be another matter if there was an element of fraud, or if the assumed name could be proved to effect a public mischief or uncertainty. Conceivably remedies could be found for such situations.

Where a candidate appears to be nominated in a name by which he is not ordinarily known, and nothing appears on the nomination paper to clear up the matter, we think a good ground for objection might exist, but this remedy is only available in a Parliamentary election, for no "objections" are now heard in Local Government elections.

Any person who is nominated in a name other than by which he is commonly known, or who desires to assume, or has recently assumed, another surname, should, for his own protection, subscribe himself in the nomination paper something like this:

BENJAMIN LEAN

Commonly known as

BENJAMIN MACLEAN.

We are doubtful as to the possibility of taking action in the Courts against a person who secures election and acts in a name by which he is not ordinarily known. Even if proceedings were possible we should be very

dubious about the prospects of success, i.e., the prospect of unseating the person complained of. On the other hand, we do not think any person is entitled to play about with his name, or to change it at will while acting in a public office, without due notice or deed poll. The officers would, in our opinion, be entitled to refuse to recognise a name suddenly assumed, and which to their knowledge was not the proper one. This point might have arisen on nomination in the case quoted, but it would not arise now unless there was an attempt to go back to the original name or some other.

THAT LABOUR MONTHLY

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DOES IMPRISONMENT DISQUALIFY FOR COUNCIL SEAT

Question. One of our Councillors has been given two months' hard labour without the option of a fine. Is he disqualified from being a Councillor for a period?

Answer. Certainly for two months during which the Councillor will hardly be able to function, but there is no permanent disqualification. If the imprisonment had been for three months or more, the Councillor would have been disqualified from further acting (see Local Government Act, 1933, Section 59, Sub-Section 1 (e)).

ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES ENDORSED

KENT : Hythe.—Mr. Henry Jackson Newman, 62, St. James' Gardens, Wembley, Middx.

LANCS. : Blackburn.—Mr. W. J. Tout, 18, Harehill St., Todmorden, Lancs.

LONDON : Lambeth, Norwood.—Mr. C. W. Gibson, 25, Dalmore Rd., West Dulwich, S.E.21.

NOTTS. : Rushcliffe.—Mrs. F. B. Paton, 15, Valley Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

WARWICK : Birmingham, Ladywood.—Mr. V. F. Yates, 158, Beaumont Rd., Bournville, Birmingham.

LABOUR PARTY DIRECTORY

(Recording all alterations since issue of last Annual Report.)

KEY TO INDEX LETTERS REPRESENTING LABOUR PARTY ORGANISING DISTRICTS.	
A	North-Eastern District
B	North-Western District
C	Midlands District
D	Southern and Home Counties District
E	London District
F	South-Western District
G	Eastern District
H	Wales
J	Scotland
K	Universities

KEY TO NATURE OF CONSTITUENCY

(CD)	County Divisions	(DB)	Divisional Boroughs
(SB)	Single-membered Boroughs	(BD)	Borough Divisions
(DMB)	Double-membered Boroughs	(U)	Universities

CORRECTIONS ALREADY RECORDED

D2 C107 D116 B153 B164 B181 E226/27 E227 E239/41 E243 D299
 D334 C337 C354 D389 C395 H477 J523 J540 G12 G85/88 D109 D110
 D207 E228/31 E280 G303 C390 C395 C397 A437/8 A470 J528 J551 J554

CORRECTIONS RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

Index	Descript-	Name of Organisation	Present Secretary and Address
F58	CD	Dorset (South) D.L.P.	Mr. A. JOLLIFFE, 78, Weston Rd., Portland, Dorset.
C103	SB	Gloucester T.C. & L.P.	Mr. J. WALSH, The Labour Club, 115, Barton St., Gloucester.
D113	CD	Aldershot D.L.P.	Mr. W. H. BARNES, 79, Keith Lucas Rd., Farnborough West, Hants.
D125	CD	Watford D.L.P.	Mrs. L. E. LEE, 22, Francis Rd., Watford, Herts.
D131	BD	Chatham D.L.P.	Mrs. N. BEALE, 29, Rochester St., Chatham, Kent.
D139	CD	Gravesend D.L.P.	Mr. C. D. HALL, 11, The Grove, Gravesend, Kent.
D143	CD	Tonbridge D.L.P.	Mr. V. BRADBURY, 51, Victoria Rd., Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
B150	SB	Bootle T.C. & L.P.	Miss D. SEED, 30, Harris Drive, Orrell, Liverpool, Lancs.
B153	SB	Eccles D.L.P.	Mr. H. J. PORTER, C.C., 322, East Lancs. Rd., Swinton, Lancs.
B174	BD	Rusholme D.L.P.	Mr. A. GREENWAY, 73, Stanley Grove, Longsight, Manchester, Lancs.

E239/41 DB	Hackney T.C. & Boro L.P.	Mr. R. STANTON, 14a, Graham Rd., London, E.8.
E242 BD	Hammersmith (North) D.L.P.	Mr. J. W. SINGLETON, 402, Uxbridge Rd., Shepherd's Bush, London, W.12.
A314 BD	Newcastle East D.L.P.	Mr. B. BRENNAN, Labour Party Rooms, Shields Rd., Newcastle-on-Tyne, Northumberland.
D332 CD	Banbury D.L.P.	Mr. T. WILLIAMS, The Bungalow, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxford.
F340 CD	Frome D.L.P.	THE SECRETARY, Frome D.L.P. Offices, 50, High St., Midsomer Norton, Bath, Somerset.
D381 CD	Reigate D.L.P.	Mr. E. C. SMITH, 1, Vincent Rd., Dorking, Surrey.
F411 CD	Swindon D.L.P.	Mr. A. A. JOHNSON, 28, Milton Rd., Swindon, Wilts.
A437/8 DB	Middlesbrough Central D.L.P.	Coun. A. H. COCKS, 124, Newport Rd., Middlesbrough, Yorks.
A450 CD	Holderness D.L.P.	Mr. J. W. MASON, Rumswell, Withersea, Yorks.
A452 CD	Cleveland D.L.P.	Mr. S. NICHOLSON, 15, Exeter St., Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks.
A453 CD	Richmond D.L.P.	Mr. A. F. DOBSON, 1, Burrard Avenue, Richmond, Yorks.
A463 CD	Normanton D.L.P.	Coun. M. BAIRSTOW, J.P., The Manse, Hightown, Whitwood Mere, Castleford, Yorks.
A472 CD	Sowerby D.L.P.	Mr. J. CALVERT, Weavers' Institute, Todmorden, Lancs.
H499 CD	Ogmore Vale D.L.P.	Mr. W. A. THOMAS, 3, Blandy Terrace, Ogmore Vale, Glam.
J558 CD	Rutherglen D.L.P.	Mr. M. KELLY, J.P., 84, Victoria St., Blantyre, Lanarks.

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WE REVIEW:

"An Outline of Finance" (second edition). By Arthur Woodburn. Price 2s. 6d. N.C.L.C. Publishing Society, Ltd.

Revised, enlarged, with an added chapter and an improved index, Woodburn's best book is a standard for the working-class student. "An Outline of Finance" was first published a few years ago when the study of finance was as fashionable in our Movement as Spain appears to be to-day.

Though Woodburn has elsewhere written of the mystery of money, one wonders where that mystery is after reading this outline. Here the simplest transactions of commerce are uncovered, and with equal clarity the writer reveals to us the workings of high finance; its methods, tendencies and influences. There is proper notice, too, of public finance—Local Government and national. What to us seems to emerge from this study is the contradiction between the tendencies of finance itself and the desires of the financiers. Though one need not agree with every conclusion in Woodburn's final chapter, "Towards Socialism," it is, nevertheless, a concise and masterly summary of the facts brought out and lessons to be drawn from a study of the previous twelve chapters.

The London County Council, 1889-1937: A historical sketch by A. Emil Davies. Price threepence. The Fabian Society.

Delightfully interesting and certainly timely, Emil Davies and the Fabian Society are to be thanked for this searchlight on L.C.C. progress since London first became one whole. One trusts that the body which was once the despair of Socialists, and in due season became the most shining example in Labour's conquests, will be held for Labour at the forthcoming elections. If so, there will be another chapter, and the best 'ne of all when the new term of office nears its end.

"Nutrition"—A Policy of National Health. By Barbara Drake, L.C.C. Price 6d. New Fabian Research Bureau and Victor Gollancz.

A pamphlet which calls the Government's bluff on physical fitness. The problem here is one that matters. It is more important than Foreign Affairs, and we commend its study to our readers.

The writer says: "Physicians with different social backgrounds may have very different ideas as to what a healthy, well nourished child should be"—to which we would comment: "Not physicians only, Mrs. Drake, but politicians also." The writer well points out that the "physiological effects of even a single deficiency are usually of a complex nature." Here's a problem Labour should get down to.

"Labour and the Distressed Areas"—Interim Report of the Labour Party's Commission of Enquiry into the Distressed Areas. Price one penny. Labour Publications Department.

This pamphlet has already been well announced, and though it is of great importance in itself it will, of course, have to be read finally in conjunction with later reports to be published.

"New Zealand's Progress Under Socialism." Price one penny. Labour Publications Department.

A bright and pleasing story of the Labour Government's first year's work. Labour speakers and propagandists must get hold of this pamphlet, for it is good propaganda. And the credit has not to be shared with members of either a United, Popular or National Front. Alone Labour did it!

"The Nazi Menace." Price one penny. British Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi Council.

This pamphlet, which contains a report of a short speech by Mr. George Lathan, M.P., and a longer one by Mr. Wickham Steed (former editor of "The Times") is of itself of little importance. But what is the why and wherefore of this Council, of which Sir Walter Citrine is the President and Mr. Lathan, Chairman. Associated with them are Sir Robert

Mond, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P., Vyvyan Adams, M.P., and others. What does really puzzle the rank and file in the constituencies is that, while they are warned not to associate with Communists and others, in organisations floated like this one for a special purpose, other people, indeed the very people who issue these prohibitions, make no bones about joining arms with Liberals and Tories in quite similar organisations. We ourselves uphold the warnings against falling into Communist flat-traps, but the Movement requires an explanation when it sees several members of the National E.C. taking up organisations in a way which seems to indicate that flirtation with Communists is all wrong, but flirtation with members of the other political Parties is all right.

"Catholics and the Civil War in Spain." Price one penny. Labour Publications Department.

The sole purpose of this pamphlet, it is stated, is to make available in this country Catholic declarations in support of the Spanish Government. It is right, of course, that every view should see the light of day, and the Catholic Church ought to be proud of the persons whose speeches and sayings are here quoted. Even so, the pamphlet contains a certain amount of war propaganda. Partisans cannot free themselves of this, and what we are waiting for is to know what lead the Catholic Church, or any section of it, will give towards Peace. The pamphlet is perhaps intended to convince Catholics in this country who have the instinct of democracy that they are not alone or wrong in their sympathies.

"A Catholic Looks At Spain." Price twopence. The Labour Publications Department.

One wonders why this pamphlet has been issued, for it can hardly return a profit. If it is intended to be propaganda on behalf of the Spanish Government, then its admissions seriously damage its case. Read this: "In any other European country an attack on a church would be a clear sign of religious hatred. In Spain it may be merely a brutal manner of expressing a protest or a means of radically fortifying oneself against more or less imaginary dangers." Or "we would all agree

that every Spaniard has in his temperament a certain dose of anarchy." Or, "in certain sections of Spanish life there has always been a great temptation to execute justice or vengeance with one's own hand." Or, "I am by no means ignorant of the atrocities of the Reds." Or, "However reprehensible were the excesses committed." Or "Marxism only exists in Spain in insignificant proportions."

After all, is it not time that we had some Peace literature on the question of Spain?

"Madrid." The Military Atrocities of the Rebels. Price one penny. The Labour Party.

The horrible, devilish story here told reminds one of the Great War, of the stories then told, the crucifixion of soldiers and the chopping off of babies' hands. It is not intended, we suppose, in view of the admissions mentioned in the pamphlet above, that there have not also been atrocities, undoubtedly lesser ones, on the Government side? And we hope we are not expected to

Concluded on Page 38

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LITTLE AUDREY'S BROTHER LAUGHED and LAUGHED !

By JACK CUTTER

"Tell me, Daddy, what is this United Front I hear you talk of so much?"

"Well, my son, it is a great effort to persuade the Labour Party to fall in line with the C.P.G.B., the I.L.P. and the S.L. in a Unity Campaign to save democracy and peace."

"I don't understand all those letters, Daddy. Does C.P.G.B. mean Careful Party of Good Boys?"

"No, son. It stands for Communist Party of Great Britain. But you mustn't be misled by the title. They are prepared to sink their Communism in order to save democracy."

"Then they are a Careful Party of Good Boys after all. Do you belong to them, Daddy?"

"No, I am a member of the Socialist League, which is a fine democratic organisation."

"But, Daddy, didn't I hear you say a few weeks ago that you objected to the leaders of the Socialist League coming to a decision without consulting the rank and file?"

"Well, yes, I did at the time. But the movement needs leadership and we must be prepared to trust our leaders to make up our minds for us."

"Is that what democracy means, Daddy?"

"You are too young to understand these things, my boy. I withdrew my objection when I saw the fine 13-point programme of the Unity Campaign."

"Yes, I read about that. Are not all the 13 points already part of Labour Party Policy?"

"Well, I hadn't considered that point, my son. Now you mention it, I believe that, in point of fact, they are."

"Then, Daddy, why don't all the other Party members just join the Labour Party? Wouldn't that make a United Front straight away?"

"As I say, my boy, you are too young to understand all the circumstances. It is not so easy as all that. You see, the I.L.P., for instance, will not join the Labour Party. They were in once and they left."

"But why did they leave? Why won't they rejoin? Don't they really want a United Front?"

"Now, son, you really must not ask so many questions at once. You make it very difficult for Daddy, who is trying to explain. It is very clear, really. You see, the Labour Party has a Constitution and Policy, and you must agree to stand by those before you can belong to the Labour Party."

"And I suppose the I.L.P. thinks that isn't fun and won't join in. Is that it, Daddy?"

"I really don't know what the I.L.P. thinks. I don't care what the I.L.P. thinks. The main point is that a United Front of all working-class organisations would be a good thing for democracy and peace. The C.P. thinks so, I think so, and the I.L.P. is prepared to fall in line. That's good enough for me and it should be good enough for you."

"Oh, please don't be cross, Daddy. I only wanted to understand. Now tell me about the C.P. Why don't they join the Labour Party and make a united front?"

"Ah, that's an easier one. They want to join, but the Labour Party won't have them."

"Why not, Daddy?"

"Because the Labour Party wants to achieve Socialism by Democratic means and the Communist Party does not."

"But how can they want a United Front to save democracy if they don't believe in democracy?"

"Didn't I tell you they were prepared to sink their feelings for the sake of unity?"

"So you did, Daddy. I understand now. They are prepared to say they believe in something they don't believe in to save the thing they don't believe in; but they are not prepared to accept the Constitution of the Labour Party. So they want a United Front outside the Labour Party on a Labour Party programme. Is that it, Daddy?"

"Oh, have it your own way! I am not a member of the C.P. and cannot answer for them. All I know is that the Socialist League is sound on the issue. Why, we are even prepared to risk expulsion for the sake of unity."

"And did the Socialist League know there was a risk of expulsion when they joined up with the C.P., Daddy?"

"Yes, my son; but we must never sink our principles for expediency."

"But isn't that just what the C.P. has done?"

"Now look here, my boy, don't you dare mention the C.P. to me again or off to bed you go. What I meant was that, believing in unity, we are prepared to take the risk of exclusion from the Party."

"And doesn't that mean that you are prepared to risk weakening the Party you wish to strengthen? It is all very difficult, Daddy. I do wish you would explain."

"Explain! My God! Haven't I been explaining this last hour? Here, Mother, take this darn kid to bed out of my sight. He's driving me nuts!"

Concluded from Page 36

believe that war propaganda has no part in either inventing or magnifying some of the stories in this pamphlet. Of the substratum of truth and horror we have no doubt. The great horror and the great atrocity is war itself.

"The People's Front Against Fascism and War." Price twopence. The Left Review.

This is a speech by G. Dimitrov made in November. The essence of the teaching is this, "everything that has happened since the recent period, and primarily the lessons of the Spanish events, point to the fact that the time has come when we must defend democracy by every means, including the force of arms." So that's that. British Communists won't thank Dimitrov for telling us so plainly where some of them would like to lead the British Labour Movement.

"The B.B.C. Exposed." Price threepence. The Left Review.

We thought this pamphlet was a useful piece of exposure until we noted the writer's final advice, which is to "let every local organisation—the Liberal, Labour and Communist Parties, etc. . . . be vigilant and issue protests . . ." And then a final plea for a popular front. One wonders if the writer intentionally placed the Parties in his order of importance. Anyway, a useful pamphlet has been spoilt by a silly ending.



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BLOCKS—**WHAT THE PARTY SECRETARY
SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THEM**

Wilfrid B. Hargreaves

(Sec. Royton D.L.P., Lancs.)

Printed propaganda of a first-class nature is needed more than ever to-day by Labour. Blocks can do much to illustrate, enliven, and put "punch" into print. Moral: use more blocks.

There are two classes of blocks, line and half tone. Every photographic block falls into either one of those classes. In recent years non-photographic blocks, such as line and rubber, have found a little favour. They are similar to line blocks.

Half tone blocks, as the name implies, print tones or shades; e.g., black, dark grey, grey, light grey, white and so on. A mesh or net can be seen in half tone blocks and in the prints therefrom. It is caused by the block-makers' camera screen.

Line blocks print plain black and white, or plain colour and ground (of the paper printed on). There are no shades or tones, and NO MESH. The camera making the block has no screen. Please note.

There are some half tones made from strong black and white photos which look like line blocks, but are not; there are line blocks which look like half tones, but are not. The presence or absence of a mesh or screen settles which are which.

Line blocks are best for cartoons, maps, simple sketches, diagrams, simple figures, trade marks and the like. They are suitable for all kinds of printing papers, and are specially suitable for rough kinds. Half tones are best for election addresses, catalogues, folders, and photos of people, machinery, animals, buildings, landscapes, etc., where there is much variation in the surfaces, colours and details to be reproduced.

The minimum charge for line blocks is 7s., for half tones 12s. 10d.; 14 square inches of block can be had for those sums, respectively. Less sizes than those cost 7s. per block, unless several are made at once, and cut, when considerable economies result. A printer or block-maker will always advise on this without charge.

Every Labour Party should have half tone blocks of its member or candidate, its councillors or municipal candidates, its officers, its leaders, local

and national. If it has several blocks of each person, so much the better; e.g., profile, full face, threequarter-length, and so on. Variety is the spice of life!

Every Labour Party should have line blocks of its name, its mascot, its premises or clubs, the party badge, etc. Adverts, leaflets, election addresses, and the like are related together and linked up into one comprehensive whole by such means, with a good effect on the public. Line blocks, after their first cost, are no further charge for years. Copies can be made from an original block at very cheap rates. Moral: Get your line blocks now and USE THEM.

Articles by, or concerning, people prominent in the party, are enlivened and made more interesting by the provision of small half tone blocks of the people writing or being written about. And, by the way, wherever possible, show the person concerned in action; i.e., walking, writing, getting into a car, shaking hands with others, and so on. It costs no more!

Here are other uses of the line block. A small hand and arm in the act of writing an X on a ballot paper is worth half a page of "Vote for Smithers," or whoever the Labour candidate may be.

A picture of feet travelling to the polling booth is strongly suggestive of action of the right kind. Another line block of a council house of a good type, with the caption or heading, "Labour Gets Things Done," would be very useful too.

Mr. Summerbell, of Sunderland, issued some years ago a series of line blocks, "Ring out the old—Ring in the new," showing the slums and the council houses side by side.

A good line block, costing perhaps 14s., does more than a foot of statistics to convince Bill and Mrs. Jones that they should vote Labour. Always remember, too, that the cost of setting a line block at the printer's is much less than setting up the same or more space in type! Make the picture tell as much of the story as possible.

In every Labour Party can be found a man or woman capable of making simple drawings in Indian ink on white cardboard. A photographer capable of making good, contrasty photos can be found. Consult them, and you will find that drawings and photos can be done at no or very small cost.

The average newspaper column is

$2\frac{1}{4}$ ins. wide. A block $3\frac{3}{4}$ ins. wide (half tone) is very useful for single column articles. A bigger one is very useful for advert purposes, folders, election addresses, etc. The election address with a small head of the candidate on the front page, and an action photo threequarter length on the inner page, would stamp the personality of the man on the electors' minds far more effectively than the ordinary, stodgy bust.

The cartoon figure, such as the big head on the small body, is appropriate for Party appeals. It is not difficult to have a small body (line block) so arranged that different heads can be used with it from time to time. The blockmaker will advise. The cost is reasonable.

The screen principle in half tone work should be thoroughly grasped by every Labour Party Secretary. Simply stated, it is this. What is known as 50 screen, i.e., 50 meshes to the inch, is very appropriate to rough newspaper quality; 75 screen is useful to better newspaper stock. Magazines like the "L.O." use 100 screen. Imitation art, a good class of paper, takes 120 screen, and fine art, the best kind of paper, takes 150 to 200 screen. Rough screen blocks may be used on better class papers with good results, within reason. Fine screen blocks should be used on the better class papers only. Smudgy, poor results are certain if they are used on rough papers. The block maker will always make the appropriate screen if samples of papers are sent him.

Just a word about the combined half tone and line block. It is somewhat expensive, but its effectiveness is great. Here is an example. A line block of a council house can be mounted on a half tone block in such a way that the latter can show the head of a candidate actually resting on the top of the house. A competent engineer member of the Party can separate them after and remount them singly. As already indicated, half tones of Party officials' faces can be mounted on line block bodies of a cartoon type.

The chest portion of a half tone figure can be cut away, and a line block, "Labour's Standard Bearer," inserted by an engineer or joiner member of the Party. A little thought and familiarity with blocks can get first-class and unusual results at little cost. A threequarter length figure, after some months' use, can be cut down to

bust size. After several times as that, it can be cut smaller for single column newspaper use. Even then it can be cut smaller still for poll card or similar usage. I am neither joiner nor engineer, but have sawn, mounted, and adapted hundreds of half tone and line blocks, with file, hacksaw and vice. Always protect the face of the block while sawing or hammering, for obvious reasons.

Newspaper text, if clearly printed in legible type, can be photographed and a line block made from that. Manuscripts in black ink on white or nearly white paper, too. Election addresses or cuttings therefrom can be reproduced by the same means. It is often cheaper to make a block than to re-set masses of type. By overlapping cuttings, particularly if one is overlapped obliquely on the other, good results of an attention-arresting value can be obtained.

On the "Herald" front and other pages can be seen photos (half tone). The picture of judge and counsel in the "L.O." under the heading "Law and Practice," is a line block. With the consent of the editor of the "L.O.," this subject of blocks and their effects will be dealt with further in a later issue.

[Thanks very much, old friend.—Ed., "L.O."]

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